



ON THE BEAT

With Andy Goldenberg

Local Band, 'Shamra' Grabs the Ear; DVD-Audio Format to Make Waves

By ANDY GOLDENBERG
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Another great local band recently came to my attention. "Shamra," out of Winfield, consists of sisters Sarah and Carrie Bolger on bass guitar and vocals, respectively; Joe Cannone on guitar; Bob Fontana on percussion; and Henry Borovitz on guitar.

Shamra has performed at CBGB's in New York City as well as The Stone Pony in Asbury Park and The Birch Hill. Their music is extremely catchy pop with bits of punky undertones. But, the real high point on their self-titled CD are Carrie's vocals.

On songs such as "Venetian Blinds" and "Jenny Jump," Carrie shows some professional vocal chops and the bands' harmonies are spot on. You can find out more about Shamra at www.shamramusic.com. For bookings, please contact the band at (908) 486-6511. You will not be disappointed.

A new audio format is slowly making its way to the masses, DVD-Audio. While discs re-mastered in this format must be played on a DVD or DVD-Audio player, the purchase may well end up being worth it. I recently had a chance to sample Deep Purple's classic 1972 "Machine Head" album (Rhino Records) on both a regular DVD player as well as a friend's DVD-Audio player.

I was blown away at how good this sounded on both regular 2-channel as well as 6-channel surround sound. I have heard every incarnation of this album, including Japanese, English and German vinyl as well as generic vinyl, and this version puts them all to shame.

As a vinyl die-hard, I have never been so excited about the digital audio future. I am trying to procure more DVD-Audio discs to sample to see if this one was just a fluke. However, the advance buzz on this format is very strong.

Neil Young is rumored to be readying his long-awaited anthology in the DVD-Audio format. So keep your eyes and ears open.

Also from Rhino, be sure to check out the double disc version of Alice Cooper's "Billion Dollar Babies," as well as a new greatest hits compilation, "Mascara & Monsters."

Other recent CD reissues include John Cale's first solo album, "Vintage Violence," as well as Kris Kristofferson's classic self-titled album which includes the hits, "Me & Bobby McGee," "Help Me Make It Through the Night" and "Sunday Mornin' Coming Down."

Charlie Rich's "Behind Closed Doors" featuring the title track, as well as the classic, "The Most Beautiful Girl." All feature re-mastered sound and bonus tracks from Sony/Epic/Monument Legacy.

From our friends at BMG/RCA comes a newly re-mastered hits collection from Hall & Oates, "The Very Best Of." The only sticking point to this collection is the lack of "She's Gone."

Also from BMG comes a tasty jazz offering from trumpeter Dave Douglas, "A Thousand Evenings." This is probably the best jazz release I have heard in some time so be sure to check it out.

From Universal Music comes re-mastered, deluxe editions of Blind Faith's self-titled only album, as well as the classic "Frampton Comes Alive." Both feature informative booklets, sparkling remixed sound and bonus tracks. I hope to have re-mastered Traffic CDs from Universal in the near future.

The packaging and sound on these deluxe editions are first rate and I highly anticipate future editions.

Editor's Note: In the March 15th edition, Andy Goldenberg will talk DVDs in his "On the Beat" column.



TAKE TIME TO SEE THE PUPPETS...The Mock Turtle Marionette Theater will perform at the Westfield Memorial Library on Sunday, March 25, at 2 p.m. The play lasts about 35 minutes and the audience is invited up after the performance to shake hands with the puppets. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library and is intended for an audience of children ages 4-12, as well as adults. Seating is limited. Tickets, which are currently available at the Children's Reference Desk, are required for admission. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. For more information, please call the Children's Department at (908) 789-4090.

Musical Club of Westfield To Serve Up 'Flute Cocktail'

WESTFIELD - A "Flute Cocktail" will be served up by the Musical Club of Westfield on Wednesday, March 14, at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street.

The title of the concert is derived from the flute trio of the same name composed by Harry Simeone. Mr. Simeone, who was born in Newark in 1911, is most noted as one of the writers of "The Little Drummer Boy," which has become a Christmas classic.

The "Flute Cocktail" will present as many performances on and demonstrations of as many types of flutes and flute literature as can be crammed into one program, ranging from fife and piccolo to bamboo flutes to contrabass flutes. The grand finale has been planned to "tickle the audience's flute bone."

Performers will include members of the Musical Club (Jennie Cline, Clarissa Nolde, and Paul and Janet Somers) and the Junior Musical Club (Elizabeth Grasso, Catherine Mangan and Kristen Wuest). Elizabeth and Catherine are seniors at

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS). Kristen is a sophomore at SPFHS.

Guest performers will include: Lindsay Della Serra, a Cranford High School junior; Mitchell Greenberg of Hackettstown, who will demonstrate the bansuri and tiztu, bamboo flutes of India and China, and will perform the "Bhupali Ragamala;"

The Montclair State University Flute Choir (Sara Hamilton, Amanda Mack, Jennifer Weiss, Brian Williams, Dayna Gugliotta and Elizabeth Pascal), under the direction of Peggy Schechter, who is flutist and founding director of the New Jersey Chamber Music Society.

The program is open to the public. Refreshments will be served by the Refreshment Committee, chaired by Edna Borchers of Westfield.

To become a member of the Musical Club of Westfield, please call the Membership Chairperson at (908) 232-2173.

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Senior Class Will be Stylin' At Fashion Odyssey 2001

WESTFIELD - High-end clothing designs will grace the fashion runway when the senior class of Westfield High School (WHS) presents "Fashion Odyssey 2001" on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in the WHS auditorium.

The program, which was conceived and coordinated by WHS senior Megan Amelia as a fundraiser for the 2001 Senior Banquet in June, will feature a fashion show of formal and informal wear of contemporary designers, highlighting the work of Jessica McClintock, Joseph A. Bank, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfinger, Oscar de la Renta, Versace, Prada, Bill Blass, Loro Piana, and Christian Dior.

Live DJ music will be provided by Jerry Benaquista.

"I'm hoping to raise funds to defray part of the cost for the Senior Banquet," commented Amelia. "Bringing the senior class together as a whole on one final class project before we graduate will be an appropriate way for us to complete the journey we have been on together for our shared years together in the Westfield Public Schools."

In putting the fashion extravaganza together, Amelia contacted several Westfield storeowners and businesses.

Tickets for "Fashion Odyssey 2001" may be purchased in advance by contacting the Westfield High School Student Council at (908) 789-4500 or at the door. The cost per ticket is \$5 per student and senior citizen and \$8 for adults.

A&E

WATERCOLOR EXPERT...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association will welcome Jane Annis to demonstrate watercolor painting during the March program on Wednesday, March 21, at the Fanwood Community Center.

Mount St. Mary Guild Sets Luncheon/Fashion Show

WATCHUNG - On Sunday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m., the Mercy Guild of Mount St. Mary Academy will sponsor its annual Luncheon/Fashion Show, "Broadway Bound," at the Hanover Marriott Hotel, Route 10, East Hanover.

The event is noted for the raffle of a wide range of theme-inspired gift baskets, as well as specialty items.

This year, the Fashion Show will feature an array of fashions from Journey Productions.

For tickets and information, please call Denise Holick at (908) 369-4484 or Carol Miller at (732) 572-2188.

'The Rainbow Experience' To Present Godspell

WESTFIELD - First Congregational, United Church of Christ of Westfield and the United Church of Christ Congregational of Plainfield have united to create a church community partnership named "The Rainbow Experience."

The troupe will present *Godspell* on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18, at 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westfield and Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25, at 8 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Plainfield.

Tickets may be purchased in Westfield at Marylou's Memorabilia and The Town Book Store, as well as Margie's Cakebox and the Plainfield Performing Arts Center in Plainfield. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 5.

For further information, please call First Congregational at (908) 233-2494 or the United Church of Christ at (908) 755-8658.

Jane Annis Will Demonstrate Watercolor Painting on March 21

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association's March program will feature Jane Annis in a demonstration of watercolor painting techniques on Wednesday, March 21, at 8 p.m.

The program will be conducted at the Fanwood Community Center, located in the railway station at the corner of North Avenue and Martine in Fanwood.

While discussing art, Ms. Annis remarked that painting is the excitement in her life.

"I try to capture the beauty and happiness that I see," she said. "There is enough sadness and pain in our world and I am glad to paint the beauty."

Ms. Annis studied at the New York School of Interior Design, Pittsburgh Art Institute, Huntington Galleries and Marshall University. The former owner of Ideas For Interiors, she is an instructor at the Westfield Y and Adult School.

The public is encouraged to attend the demonstration, which is sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association. The program is made possible in part by a HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Freeholders.

For more information, please call Tom Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

Emergency Health Alert to All New Jersey Residents

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The cures for all of the above as prescribed by the World Famous Boxologist Richard Rothbard:

- 1 GO to Westfield High School the weekend of March 9, 10, 11
- 2 Park your car and RUSH across the street to the Armory
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